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8 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
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11 CRAIG RICHARD,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 SAETEURN, et al.,

15 Defendants.
16

No. 2:21-CV-1015-KJM-DMC-P

ORDER

17 Plaintiff, a prisoner proceeding pro se, brings this civil rights action pursuant to
18 42 U.S.C. § 1983. An answer has been filed and the case is now at issue.¹

19 The undersigned is referring all post-screening civil rights cases filed by pro se
20 state inmates to the Post-Screening ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Project in an effort to
21 resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of
22 the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or
23 objections shall be waived by their participation.

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28 ¹ Plaintiff's motion, ECF No. 17, for a Court order directing Defendants to file an answer will be
denied as moot.

1 As set forth in the screening order, Plaintiff has stated a potentially cognizable
2 civil rights claim. Thus, the Court stays this action for a period of 120 days to allow the parties to
3 investigate Plaintiff's claims, meet and confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

4 There is a presumption that all post-screening prisoner civil rights cases assigned
5 to the undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.² However, if after investigating
6 Plaintiff's claims and speaking with Plaintiff, and after conferring with defense counsel's
7 supervisor, defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of
8 resources, defense counsel may move to opt out of this pilot project.

9 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

10 1. This action is stayed for 120 days from the date of this order to allow the
11 parties an opportunity to settle their dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as
12 provided herein or by subsequent court order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed
13 in this case during the stay of this action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but
14 the parties may elect to engage in informal discovery.

15 2. Any motion to opt out of the Post-screening ADR Project shall be filed
16 within 30 days from the date of this order.

17 3. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the
18 parties shall file a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.

19 4. The parties remain obligated to keep the Court informed of their current
20 addresses at all times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must
21 be reported promptly to the Court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled
22 "Notice of Change of Address." See Local Rule 182(f).

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If the case does not settle, the Court will issue a discovery and scheduling order.

1 5. Plaintiff's motion, ECF No. 17, for a Court order requiring Defendants to
2 file an answer is denied as moot.

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4 Dated: January 20, 2022

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dennis M. Cota', written over a horizontal line.

DENNIS M. COTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE